

Fig. 55. Anal extremity of the same.

Fig. 56. Embryo Annelid, with immense bunches of temporary bristles.

Fig. 57. Adult of fig. 56?

Fig. 58. Minute Annelid parasitic on shell of lobster.

### XXXVIII.—Description of a new Species of Mesoprion.

By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

[Plate IX.]

THE finest specimens of stuffed fishes which I have seen are prepared by the native employés of the Madras Museum. Capt. Mitchell, curator of this museum, has sent a small collection of such examples to the coming Universal Exhibition at Paris. Among them I have observed a new and very aberrant species of *Mesoprion*, distinguished by very feeble jaws and canine teeth, a very narrow præorbital, short snout, &c. I propose to name it

*Mesoprion Mitchelli*. Pl. IX.

D.  $\frac{11}{13}$ . A.  $\frac{3}{9}$ . L. lat. 70. L. transv. 10/22.

The height of the body is one-third of the total length (to the end of the middle caudal rays), the length of the head two-ninths. The snout is but little longer than the eye, which is nearly one-fourth of the length of the head. Jaws feeble, the lower projecting beyond the upper; the maxillary scarcely extends beyond the front margin of the orbit. Teeth in the jaws, vomer, and palatines villiform, in very narrow bands; the upper jaw only is armed with a pair of minute canines. Præorbital very narrow, its width being about half that of the orbit. Scales on the cheek in four or five series, the naked portion of the præoperculum being very broad at the angle. Præoperculum very finely serrated behind, the angle being radiated, each radius terminating in a scarcely perceptible spine. Basal half or third of the vertical fins densely covered with scales. Dorsal fin with the upper margin even; spines slender; the first is one-third as long as the second, which is not much shorter than the fourth and fifth, which are the longest and half as long as the head. The second and third anal spines are feeble, equal in length, and shorter than the second of the dorsal. Caudal fin emarginate. Pectoral falciform, longer than the head, not extending to the vent. Dark oblique and longitudinal lines run along the series of scales. Vertical fins with a narrow blackish edge.

The specimen is 16 inches long; it has been kindly promised for the Collection of the British Museum, after the close of the Paris Exhibition.